

Hawaii Buddhist Women's News

HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII FEDERATION OF BUDDHIST WOMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS

Honorary President: Tamayo Matsumoto President: Irene Nakamoto Minister Advisor: Rev. Shindo Nishiyama
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From the President: Dear Members of the Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations

Our first Hawaii Federation BWA meeting for 2016 was held on March 5, 2016 with the following in attendance:

Honorary President: Tamayo Matsumoto
President: Irene Nakamoto (Honolulu)
Immediate Past President: Janet Honda (Honolulu)
1st Vice President: Lois Toyama (Honolulu)
2nd Vice President: Linda Nagai (Kona)
Recording Secretary: Sharon Nohara (Maui)
Assistant Secretary: Lynne Matsumura (Kauai)
Treasurer: Karen Kikukawa (Honolulu)
Assistant Treasurer: Donna Higashi (Honolulu)
Auditor: Kumika Soga (Hilo)
Auditor: Suzue Nishiyama (Honolulu)
Honorary Advisor: Bishop Eric Matsumoto
Minister Advisor: Reverend Shindo Nishiyama

Also in attendance were our United Presidents: Honolulu – Donna Higashi; Oahu-June Asato; Kauai- Fay Tateishi (proxy; Gail Shibuya); Maui-Sharon Nohara; Hawaii- K.T. Cannon-Eger (unable to attend). Minister advisors for 2016 are: Honolulu-Reverend Bert Sumikawa; Oahu-Reverend David Fujimoto; Kauai-Reverend Tomo Hojo (proxy: Reverend Kazunori Takahashi); Maui-Reverend Ai Hironaka; Hawaii-Reverend Bruce Nakamura. Directors are: Edna Muneto (Honolulu); Susan Morishige (Oahu); Lynne Matsumura (Kauai); Diane Kosaka (Maui); Linda Nagai (proxy: Lynne Higashi) (Kona); Ellen Okano (Hilo). Committee Chairs for 2016 are: By Laws and Policies: Myrna Nishihara; Education: Kiyo Masuda; Finance: Donna Higashi; Membership: Linda Nagai; Newsletter: Jo desMarets; Projects: Lois Toyama; Student Exchange: Suzue Nishiyama; Transportation: Li-ane Wong; Historian: Ruth Tokumi; Media: Irene Nakamoto

To start the year, the BWA ladies made it possible for the attendees at Giseikai to see the two videos which were supported by Honpa's Social Concern committee and shown at the

International Film Festival 2015: "The Survival Call" and "Herbert Yanamura Story". Also, with the help of BWA members Doris Oshiro, Myrna Nishihara, and Karen Kikukawa, we were also able to show a video of Takejiro Higa (a member of Jikoen temple) recognizing his courageous efforts in Okinawa. Both Mr. Yanamura and Mr. Higa were in attendance to elaborate on their stories.

Also, through the cooperation and hard work of B.J. Soriano, the "BWA Pledge" has been put to music. I hope that all units will learn to sing it so we can join together at the next State Membership Conference in 2018 to sing the Pledge.

At our March 5th meeting, Federation of BWA moved to support the efforts of the Big Island to have the Ellison Onizuka Museum remain in Kona. The legislature is currently discussing the future of the museum. Let us all follow this effort and

support preserving the legacy of an outstanding Jodo Shinshu Buddhist, Ellison Onizuka.

Our afternoon, Dharma Leadership session focused on the 3 Treasures of Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha, and on the Essential Teachings. We saw the Lego blocks as

lego leadership: Connecting builds a Strong Foundation: When you make a connection, it lays a foundation upon which you can build. The more connections you make, the stronger your foundation becomes and the higher you can build; Connecting unleashes the power of Synergy: Whatever is accomplished, is done collectively through cooperative efforts. Connecting Utilizes the Strength of Unity: Unity is created when one sets aside self and places the greater good ahead of personal agendas. Cultivate the spirit of unity within your organization by helping people understand unity (not uniformity). Dharma Leadership continues in October. Please join us!



HAWAII ISLAND UNITED BWA

Ellen Okano



The 61st Annual HIUHBWA Convention was held on October 18, 2015, at the Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, and hosted by the Kona BWA.

We recognized 16 new members as follows: Roxanne Aburamen, Aki Baba, Michelle Soga, Jean Tung, and Nettie Yokoyama of Hilo Hongwanji; Naomi Campbell and Jan Hino of Honokaa Hongwanji; Darlene Wong of Kamuela Hongwanji; Claudia Chang, Susan Shirota and Kendra Johnson of Kona Hongwanji; and Brenda Isa, Dorothy King, Shigeko Kiyojima, Sumie Kiyojima and Lynette Quade of Puna Hongwanji.

Resolutions of Appreciation and Congratulations were presented to the following centenarians: Sueko Takamoto of Honokaa, Chiyoko Kawasaki of Kona and Shizue Hamamoto of Hilo.

After the service and general membership meeting, Derek Kurisu, Executive Vice President of KTA Super Stores, did a demonstration of how to make Somen Salad. This delicious dish was served as part of our lunch and was enjoyed by all. He did some filming of this event that was televised on the "Seniors in Paradise" TV show. His comedic comments kept us laughing throughout the demonstration.

HONOLULU UNITED BWA

WE ARE CONNECTED and FIT TOGETHER

Donna Higashi



Using the Power Point photos from the 15th World BW Convention in Calgary, Canada, as our guide, the Honolulu United's Joint Education Workshop and General Membership Meeting was held on October 17. We learned how the World Federation works at one of its five districts – the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada's Women's Group. We walked through the events of the two day convention (religious services, keynote speakers, workshops, panel, group entertainment, lunch & dinner fellowship) as the total 82 Hawaii delegates did, led by HI Federation President Janet Honda and Honolulu United President Myrna Nishihara (37 delegates). We continued learning about our Federation, United and Unit programs, many of which came from the World Convention resolutions (Dana Day, Care Day, Sister BWA Relations, Eshinni/Kakushinni Services, Student Exchange). Recently the Canada Convention committee sent its final Report and a special DVD of the convention to all the attendees. Ask a delegate to share it with you and let's join together in 2019 as we attend the 16th World BWA Convention sponsored by the Buddhist Churches of America Women's Federation Group in San Francisco, California.

We as Buddhist women are connected with each other (Units, United, Hawaii Federation, World) and offer good programs at all levels. As a Buddhist woman you will find something of value at your Unit BWA level so join us if you are not a member already.



MAUI UNITED BWA

Sharon Nohara



Welcome to a new year 2016! Buddhist women of Maui began the year by renewing our commitment to helping our respective churches, sharing DANA with our community, and enjoying fellowship and enriching experiences within our Sangha. We are also aware of the issues facing women in our society and support activities that help women.

PEACE MARCH: The Martin Luther King Jr. Day Peace March was held on January 19. BWA women, their families, and friends, of all ages, joined the over 250 people who marched around the Maui County Building. As we share Peace and Compassion we remember that we are all part of the Golden Chain of Love, Life, and Peace.



The Maui Buddhist Ohana welcomed Rev. William and Mrs. Kiyoko Masuda, as they began their residency at Makawao Hongwanji. They have served at various California churches, but many will remember that Rev. Will was the minister in the early days of the Buddhist Study Center. They look forward to living in Hawaii again and sharing life's journey embraced by the Buddha.

Maui United President Sharon Nohara and other officers, board members, committee chairs, and advisors look forward to 2016 as a year to brainstorm new ways to be better Buddhist women and to reach out to others, in our families and in our larger community.



At the MLK Peace Day Parade

Student Exchange August 12 to 19

We will, again, be hosting students from Japan who are participating our Student Exchange program from August 12 to 19, 2016; they will be visiting Honolulu, Oahu and Maui. Can we all assist in making the Homestay for our exchange students a memorable time.

OAHU UNITED BWA June Asato



OUHHBWA Seminar and Annual Convention held on November 14 was open to all interested from the Oahu Hongwanji Ohana (men and women). We held a service in memory of members who passed away in the past year and featured Buddhist Education talk by Rev. David Fujimoto. The seminar speaker was James Koshiba and his talk on homelessness was well received. The main business of the annual convention was to adopt a bylaws revision and to elect new officers. Active membership in OUHHBWA, Hawaii Federation of BWA and the World Federation of Buddhist Women is open to all women of the Oahu district Hongwanji Ohana upon payment of dues assessment of \$7.50. Women may join through temple units or directly with the Oahu United if they do not belong to a unit. Associate members are those reported by units .

Officers for 2016 were elected: June Asato (Mililani), President; Susan Morishige (Aiea), Vice President; Diane Yoza (Mililani), Recording Secretary; Joan Masaki (Pearl City), Corresponding Secretary; Joyce Ogawa (Mililani), Treasurer; Susan Ushijima (Waianae), Assistant Treasurer; Takako Desaki (Pearl City), Auditor; Karen Shimabukuro (Pearl City), Auditor; Rev. David Fujimoto of Mililani is the Advisor.

Since our last Federation meeting, we have had two United meetings. Oahu United has active members from 4 of the 8 temples; there are no active, or associate, members from the two largest temples in the district. The temples with no active BWA members have units which are very active as local units in supporting the temples and districts. Oahu United will hold one major event for 2016 on Saturday, September 17 at Pearl City. The program will include our Educational Seminar and Annual Convention. The Oahu units and united continue to work closely with the temples, the district council and the district Lay Association. The membership count for OUHHBWA as of 12/31/2015: 135 Active Members; 108 Associate Members and 243 Total BWA Membership

KAUAI UNITED BWA Fay Tateishi



Kauai United BWA at its Annual Autumn Conference at Kapaa Hongwanji on October 18, 2015 despite their difficulty finding leadership, hosted the conference with spirit. It started with a memorial service, honoring BWA members who have passed away in the last year. It was followed by our General Membership meeting and a delicious lunch. The speaker was Jim Jung who was not a Buddhist but after losing his wife found Buddhism to be comforting. He spoke about his meeting with Sadako Sasaki's Family when they visited Kauai and upon learning about her cranes, learned and started folding cranes from paper he had. He brought them to the conference and asked to please give them to the Honokaa group that does the Peace Parade each year. There were over 1,000 in a plastic container. He has since folded another 1,000. He seems to have a good rapport with Reverend Mari Majima at Kapaa Hongwanji. We also did some singing of new gathas by BJ Soriano.

We did our annual Lonesome Grave project, decorating the graves at the Veteran's Cemetery in Hanapepe. It started with potted marigolds, representing the gold star mothers. It has evolved from planting seeds in August in hopes that they will bloom and be perfect on November 10th to gathering and finding all kinds of flowers so we may fill many empty vases. Each year a service is held on the eleventh month of the eleventh day at the eleventh hour at the cemetery. It is very beautiful to see the cemetery after we decorate them. We are appreciated and thanked by the people that come to visit and put flowers on their family grave.

On January 31, 2016, the Kauai United BWA Board had its first meeting at Lihue Hongwanji. Our various committees were named so we have all of our annual projects organized. Each year we offer two scholarships to eligible graduating seniors continuing on to college, Dana gift to a needy organization, our joint Eshinni/Kakushinni Service and brain storm ideas for attracting new and potential members.